



## THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

CHERYL A. TRAHAN, Director of Finance

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February 14, 2013

State of Connecticut  
Committee on Education

Re: SB-0876 - School building roof pitch requirements

I write to share our concerns regarding the portion of SB-0876 that directs the Department of Construction Services to conduct a study regarding roof pitch requirements for school buildings.

Currently our three elementary schools have a quarter-inch roof pitch. These roofs will be due for replacement in a few years. While potential legislation requiring a half-inch pitch would not affect us immediately, it will certainly have an impact on our tax payers in the near future. Our current school roofs have withstood the significant amounts of snow and rain of the past two years with little difficulty. We have indeed needed to do the proper repairs and maintenance, however, with proper upkeep we see no reason or benefit to increase the pitch of the roof to a half-inch. We have not had any mold issues or air quality issues due to leaks in the roofs. A requirement like this would do nothing more for us than substantially increase the cost of roof replacement, putting an unnecessary burden on our tax payers. The following is an estimated cost comparison to replace the roof of our three elementary schools:

Quarter-inch pitch roof replacement (108,000sq. ft)	\$ 1,620,000
Half inch-pitch roof replacement (including engineering costs)	<u>\$ 3,105,000</u>
Increase of 92%	\$ 1,485,000

All Connecticut municipalities are struggling to do more with less, particularly as we try to meet the growing needs of our residents during these very difficult economic times. While we would never cut corners and put our children's health at risk, we also need to make sure we are making good decisions regarding the cost effectiveness of our expenditures. We have not seen any documentation that proves that a half-inch pitch roof instead of a quarter-inch pitch roof provides significant protection from leaks and mold which could affect air quality.

I respectfully ask that you consider carefully the benefits of such a requirement compared to the additional tax burden this would put on our residents.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cherie Trahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cherie" being more prominent than the last name "Trahan".

Cherie Trahan

cc: Fred Baruzzi, Superintendent of Schools  
Matt Hart, Town Manager